Synopsis for proposed research

DEPICTION OF INDIAN SOCIETY, CULTURE AND POLITICS IN THE NOVELS OF UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE : A CRITICAL STUDY

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Introduction

Upamanyu Chatterjee is a Bengali writer and born in 1959 in Patna. He is an Indian civil servant who currently serves as Joint Secretary to Government of India. On the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board. He is 1983 batch Indian Administration Service Office from Maharashtra cadre. In 2004 he was awarded Sahitya Academi Award.

The English literature in India that spaned over the last thirty years has undergone a dramatic change which witnessed new thoughts and voices in alternation in Indian writing in English novelists like Salman Rashide, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, Geeta Mehta, Kiran Desai, Vikram Chandra, Chetan Bhagat and a number of other novelists explored the new possibilities of life and literature. Similarly Upamanyu Chatterjee, one of the convincing new voices in the realm of the Indian novel in English literature who has captured a wide range of reputation for his profound comic vision in his writing.

Indian fiction in English a new group of writers who provided new idea of writing through the observation of the vices and follies rampant in the society. Among the writers who brought a change in tone, tenor and content. Upamanyu Chatterjee is outstanding and powerful novelist. The literacy world of Upamanyu Chatterjee includes some beautiful creations like, *English August : An Indian Story (1988), The Last Burden (1993), The Mammaries of the Welfare State (2000), Weight Loss (2006)* and *Way to Go (2010).*

The present study gives more emphasis on depiction of Indian society, culture and politics in the novels of Upamanyu Chatterjee. The study is limited to novels.

Brief Summary of Selected Primary Texts

English August : An Indian Story was published in 1998. English, August is a marvelously intelligent and entertaining novel and especially for anyone curious about modern India. The novel follows Agastya Sen-a young westernized Indian civil servant whose imagination is dominated by women literature, and soft drugs. This vivid account of 'real India' by the young officer posted to the small provincial town of Madana.

English, August presents an unflattering portrait of the Indian government in action. August's own approach punctuates apathy dilatory attention to duty with episodes of activity, notably on effort to bring water to a deprived village which brins him into contact with violent naxlites.

Hist second novels *The Last Buden* was published in 1993. This novel recreates life in an Indian family at the end of the twentieth century. This novel deals with the suffering and obstacle as faced by the contemporary middle class Indian families in day to day life on the realistic front. It broadly highlights the burden which has rather become unbearable for most of the Indian middle class families living I all kind of background. *The Last Burden* is about ingratitude of the young generation about their parents in their old age. The type of treatment given to the age old people by the young lot is a kind of new phenomena as the same has been a sort of rarity in older times and milieu. The burden in real sense is the responsibility of the old lot in a family and the author very subtly title it as last because after that the young lot will be the burden for the upcoming generation and after taking care of the last burden they think that they will have to bear nothing else in their lives they shall be relieved

forever. He explains the middle class people struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, physically. Though it's an inevitable thing to be changed somehow it is managed by the people all over the world.

His third novel *The Mammaries of the Welfare State* was published in 2000. The novel is about the welfare state. The welfare of the people is managed by a political dynasty and civil servants. *The Mammaries of the Welfare State* recounts the story of Agastya who is in dismay with his service. Agastya has not found happiness in the bureaucratic functions. The book finely delineates the grotesquery of governance and worthless of the administrative posts in India. The entire plot of the novel mammaries of the welfare state vividly represents the socio-economic condition of Indian citizen in some backwater hinterland. The fiction is the clear representation of the stark realities of India and the Indians, their lifestyles, of politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, working class people and work culture in different walks of life. The fiction represents the generation walks of life. The fiction represents the generation of the youth devidated from the disciplines life. Again the Indian educated youth is under the whims of intoxication and abusive drugs. The novel delightly narrates the typical Indian psyche and ideological issues as evident in the society. Again it is humorous, gleeful and light weight raillery on the Indian social ethos, social institutions and politics.

His fourth novel, *Weight Los,* a dark comedy was published in 2006 *Weight Loss* is about the strange life (from age 11 to 37) of a sexual deviant named Bhola, whose attitude to most of the people around him depends on their lust worthiness. Bhola's tastes are not, to put it middy. Conventional sex is a form of depravity for him and he was fetishness about everyone from teachers to roadside sadhus to servants, he progress from fantasizing about the portly family cook. Gopinath to failing 'made in love' with a vegetable vendor and her husband. This last obsession

span the entire length of the book and most Bhola's life he even ends up teaching at a college in an obscure hill-station hundreds of miles from his home because he wants to be near his home because he wants to be near the couple. At various other stages in his life he gets expelled from school for defecating in a teacher's office, participates in an inexpertly carried out circumcisions (one of the book's many manifestations of the '*Weight Loss*' only motif)

His fifth novel was *Way to Go*, a sequel to the *Last Burden* published in 2010. *Way to Go* is a book about the relationship between father and son in the post modern era. It is also a story of aimlessness, helplessness and complete spiritual draught in the lives of the present generation. The novel tells the tragic tale of eighty five years old paralysed and helpless father. The novel focuses on human extremities in their behavior, attitudes and idiosyncrasies. All the characters of the novel suffer from guilt, depression, isolation, alienation and wish to relive themselves from inner, oppressive burdens whether it is Jummu, Burfi, Shyamanand, Madhumati, Kashibai all go through the same experiences and suffer the guilt as a parts of the painful ordeal of existence, through these guilts are the products of their own past and acts which now come full circle to hunt them psychologically and spiritually.

Upamanyu Chatterjee view on Indian society, culture and politics

Upamanyu Chatterjee's realism is restricted only two grassroot social realities and psychological make up in India. His novels record so many actual modern sensibilities social facts are reflected in his fiction through the depiction of social institutions or customs that exist in the society of his times. He provides information about Indian society, culture values, norms, moral expectation in society, the state of law and prescriptions of religious codes. He is not blind to the contemporary

political and historical realities. There is a concentration not only on contemporary themes but also on the ordinary every day human experiences of individual as well as society.

Scope of the Research

The scope is limited to the depiction of Indian society, culture and politics in the novels of Upamanyu Chatterjee. His main target in *English August : An Indian Story* is about Indian civil service and politicians interference. Its sequel *The Mammaries of the Welfare State* deals with the same issues. *The Last Burden* is about the changing rainbow of human relationship between the members of Shyamanand's middle class family and its three successive generations *Weight Loss* is about the strange life from age 11 to 37 of sexual deviant. His fifth novel *Way to Go* is a book about the relationship between father and son in the post modern era. The study will be carried out to analyze the text.

Relevance of the present study to the society

The present study help to study Upamanyu Chatterjee's emerging thoughts on Indian society, culture and politics. He exposes the hollowness of bureaucracyand the dislocation of the young intellectuals in the presence of degraded and power mongering politicians Upamanyu Chatterjee's novels of Indian historical and political ruptures, socio-cultural milieu and a bright mirror of religious diversity display the websites of national network as the eye-openers to the natives as well as to the westerners. The work of Chatterjee's service as a beacon to the new generation in broadening of the mind, inculcating values and vision of life and building a character which are essential for the cultural, socio-political and economic development of the developing nation. Religious tolerance, universal brotherhood, international peace, the balance of

ecology and positive humane values are mostly relevant in the most turbulent modern world.

The study will provide the motivation to the readers, teaches, politicians and businessmen, so that they will take much interest in their own society, culture and politics.

Objectives of the Research

The proposed research work consists mainly the following objectives:

- To study the depiction of Indian society, culture and politics.
- To examine the relevance of the issues projected by the author.
- To illustrate how Upamanyu Chatterjee's novels express an Indian story of the educated young bureaucrat who is alienated from his self society and culture.
- To study westernization, urbanization, cultural estrangement, metropolitan life.
- To study and evaluate narrative techniques of Upamanyu Chatterjee.

Hypothesis

- Upamanyu Chatterjee depicts social reality in rural and tribal area.
- Upamanyu Chatterjee's writing highlights a satiric portrait of the Indian administrative service rotten with corruption.
- Impact of modernization on Indian society, culture and politics.
- Depiction of fast changing socio-economic scenario in the post-colonial India.

Probable Date of Completion

The research project is proposed to be completed within the time limit as stipulated by the university.

Research Methodology

The method of library research will be followed. Field work is not deemed to be necessary for the proposed research. Internet sources will be utilized. Communication to critical questions may be established in necessary. MLA methodology will strictly followed for reference.

Plan of the Thesis

The present study would comprise the following chapters :

Chapter-I : Introduction

Chapter-II : English August : An Indian Story

Chapter-III : The Last Burden

Chapter-IV : Mammaries of the Welfare State

Chapter-V : Weight Loss

Chapter-VI : Way to Go

Chapter-VII : Conclusion

The first chapter proposes to introduce the research project.

Chapter-II to VI will focus on analysis of individual texts.

The seventh chapter proposes to make an attempt to arrive at a befitting conclusion of research work.

Preliminary Bibliography

Primary Sources

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2) *The Last Burden* (1993)

3) *Mammaries of the Welfare State* (2000)

4) *Weight Loss* (2006)

5) *Way to Go* (2010)

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